

June 2001

## **Deferral of Routine Booster Doses of Tetanus Toxoids for Adolescents and Adults**

Dear Doctor:

A nationwide shortage of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) in the United States has resulted due to the discontinuation in January 2001 of production by one of the nation's two major manufacturers. As a result, Aventis Pasteur is now the sole remaining supplier of Td in the United States and has expanded its manufacturing capability to meet national needs. However, the time required to accomplish this is expected to take approximately 11 months due to the manufacturing process.

**Therefore, the CDC now recommends deferring all routine adult and adolescent tetanus booster vaccinations until 2002 or until the shortage has been resolved.**

Aventis Pasteur has asked that Postgraduate Institute for Medicine inform all practitioners of this interim recommendation and reinforce the need to adhere to this deferral in order to ensure enough vaccine for critical immunization needs.

The use of Td for vaccination of those with wounds, planning foreign travel, who are pregnant, or who have not completed the primary tetanus series should continue to follow recommendations from the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Enclosed you will find a chart and additional information detailing the interim CDC recommendations. Additional copies of this chart can be obtained from Aventis Pasteur at [www.vaccineshoppe.com](http://www.vaccineshoppe.com). Please post this material in your clinic as a reminder of the need to defer routine adult and adolescent tetanus booster vaccinations.

Aventis Pasteur is shipping Td only to public health clinics and urgent care facilities (such as emergency rooms and burn units) so that adequate supplies are available to meet priority needs, as defined by the CDC. Institutions needing to order Td vaccine can call Aventis Pasteur at 1-800-822-2463 (1-800-VACCINE). **Institutions should place orders for their anticipated needs for priority indications only.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Doutre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "D".

William H. Doutre, PharmD  
Medical Director  
Postgraduate Institute for Medicine